

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

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Claim 1. (*Canceled*)

Claim 2. (*Canceled*)

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a Claim 3. (*Currently Amended*) A retaining element according to ~~claim 2~~, claim 12, wherein the vertical distance between the upper surface of the support device and the sole-clamp is comprised between 20 and 28 millimeters.

Claim 4. (*Original*) A retaining element according to claim 3, wherein the vertical distance between the upper surface of the support device and the sole-clamp is approximately 24 millimeters.

Claim 5. (*Currently Amended*) A retaining element according to ~~claim 1~~, claim 12, wherein the rear zone of the mounting base has two substantially parallel arms that are lower in relation to the front zone.

Claim 6. (*Currently Amended*) A retaining element according to ~~claim 1~~, claim 12, wherein the mounting base rests on a two-level wedge spacer.

Claim 7. (*Currently Amended*) A retaining element according to ~~claim 1~~, claim 12, wherein the support device is constructed to be movable.

Claim 8. (*Original*) A retaining element according to claim 7, wherein the support device is a support element mounted for rocking movement about a median longitudinal and horizontal axle carried by a support.

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Claim 9. (*Original*) A retaining element according to claim 7, wherein the support device is a support element movable laterally on both sides of a centered position.

Claim 10. (*Original*) A retaining element according to claim 7, wherein the support device is an endless band sliding on a zone of reduced cross-section of the rear zone of the mounting base.

Claim 11. (*New*) A retaining element according to claim 6, wherein said two levels of said spacer have respective upper surfaces differing in height by said distance of between 4 and 10 millimeters.

Claim 12. (*New*) A retaining element to retain a front end of a sole of a ski boot, said retaining element comprising:

Q<sup>9</sup> a mounting base including a front zone and a rear zone, the front zone being raised with respect to the rear zone by a distance of between 4 and 10 millimeters compared to front and rear zones of a retaining element constructed to receive boots according to standard DIN 7880 Parts I and II;

a support device to support the boot sole, the support device being positioned on the rear zone of the mounting base;

a body positioned on the front zone of the mounting base;

a jaw supported by the body, the jaw having a sole clamp for vertical retention of the boot sole, the rear zone of the mounting base extending rearward of the jaw.

Claim 13. (*New*) A retaining element according to claim 12, further comprising at least one bore in the rear zone of the mounting base for receiving at least one screw for assembling the mounting base with respect to the ski.

Claim 14. (*New*) A retaining element according to claim 13, wherein the mounting base has a unitary construction.

Claim 15. (*New*) A retaining element according to claim 13, wherein the mounting base and the body are formed in a unitary construction.

Claim 16. (*New*) A retaining element according to claim 13, wherein the front and rear zones of the mounting base extend along a common longitudinal direction.

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Claim 17. (*New*) A retaining element to retain a front end of a sole of a ski boot, said retaining element comprising:

- a mounting base including a front zone and a rear zone;

- a support device having an upper surface to support the boot sole, the support device being positioned on the rear zone of the mounting base;

- a body positioned on the front zone of the mounting base;

- a jaw supported by the body, the jaw having a sole clamp for vertical retention of the boot sole, the rear zone of the mounting base extending rearward of the jaw;

- the upper surface of the support device and the sole clamp being spaced apart vertically by a distance of between 20 and 28 millimeters.

Claim 18. (*New*) A retaining element according to claim 17, wherein the upper surface of the support device and the sole clamp are spaced apart vertically by a distance of approximately 24 millimeters.

Claim 19. (*New*) A retaining element according to claim 17, further comprising at least one bore in the rear zone of the mounting base for receiving at least one screw for assembling the mounting base with respect to the ski.

Claim 20. (*New*) A retaining element according to claim 19, wherein the mounting base has a unitary construction.

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Claim 21. (*New*) A retaining element according to claim 19, wherein the mounting base and the body are formed in a unitary construction.

Claim 22. (*New*) A retaining element according to claim 19, wherein the front and rear zones of the mounting base extend along a common longitudinal direction.

Claim 23. (*New*) A retaining element according to claim 19, wherein the front zone is raised with respect to the rear zone by a distance of between 4 and 10 millimeters compared to front and rear zones of a retaining element constructed to receive boots according to standard DIN 7880 Parts I and II.

Claim 24. (*New*) A retaining element according to claim 19, wherein the rear zone of the mounting base has two substantially parallel arms that are lower in relation to the front zone.

Claim 25. (*New*) A retaining element according to claim 19, wherein the mounting base rests on a two-level spacer.

Claim 26. (*New*) A retaining element according to claim 25, wherein said two levels of said spacer have respective upper surfaces differing in height by said distance of between 4 and 10 millimeters.

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Claim 27. (*New*) A retaining element according to claim 19, wherein the support device is constructed to be movable.

Claim 28. (*New*) A retaining element according to claim 27, wherein the support device is a support element mounted for rocking movement about a median longitudinal and horizontal axle carried by a support.

Claim 29. (*New*) A retaining element according to claim 27, wherein the support device is a support element movable laterally on both sides of a centered position.

Claim 30. (*New*) A retaining element according to claim 27, wherein the support device is an endless band sliding on a zone of reduced cross-section of the rear zone of the mounting base.

Claim 31. (*New*) A retaining element provided to retain the front of a boot sole on a ski, said retaining element comprising:

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a jaw having a sole-clamp for vertical retention of the boot sole, a body supporting the jaw, the body being mounted on a mounting base provided to be affixedly connected to the ski, the mounting base having, toward a rear of the jaw, at least one bore provided for a screw for assembling the mounting base to the ski, and a support device to receive the support of the boot sole, the mounting base including a front zone and a rear zone, the rear zone extending rearward of the jaw, the body being positioned on the front zone, the at least one bore and the support device being located in the rear zone;

the retaining element further comprising a two-level spacer, the mounting base being supported by the two-level spacer, with the rear zone of the mounting base being lower than the front zone.

Claim 32. (*New*) A retaining element according to claim 31, wherein the rear zone is lower than the front zone by a distance of between 4 and 10 millimeters.

Claim 33. (*New*) A retaining element according to claim 32, wherein the support device and the sole-clamp have respective surfaces vertically spaced apart by a distance of between 20 and 28 millimeters.

Claim 34. (*New*) A retaining element according to claim 31, wherein the support device and the sole-clamp have respective surfaces vertically spaced apart by a distance of between 20 and 28 millimeters.

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Claim 35. (*New*) A retaining element according to claim 31, wherein the support device and the sole-clamp have respective surfaces vertically spaced apart by a distance of approximately 24 millimeters.

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